



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

June 30, 2016

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

COUNTY FILM AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY STATUS REPORT (ITEM NO. 16, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2014)

On September 9, 2014, a Board motion instructed this Office to periodically report back on the actions taken to standardize the County's film and still photography permit service fees and attract more productions to film in the County. On April 10, 2015, our Office indicated that status reports would be provided twice a year to allow for more comprehensive updates. The last status report to the Board was dated November 2, 2015. This status report addresses the following issues discussed at the January 20, 2016 County/Film Industry Coordination meeting:

- Fire Department Filming Fees
- FilmLA Update on Regional Filming
- Industry Feedback on Filming at County Facilities

The report also discusses the May 17, 2016 Board Motion regarding the California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance and Best Practices.

Fire Department (Fire) Filming Fee Update

Fire is currently working on their triennial Fire Code review and simultaneously their Fire-related filming fee adjustments. The Chief Executive Office (CEO) reported to the Board on December 12, 2012 that departments seeking adjustments to filming fees (County Use Fees, County Review Fees, and County Service Fees, as defined below) must present recommendations for any adjustments to the Board in a coordinated fashion on the same agenda as the Fire-related filming fee adjustments, which are scheduled for November 2016.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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County departments primarily affected include the Executive Office of the Board, Beaches and Harbors, Military and Veterans Affairs, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Internal Services Department, and the Sheriff.

The Filming Fees are defined as follows:

County Use Fees: A daily fee, or rent, is charged to use a County facility. The current fee is \$400 per day for most County facilities.

County Review Fees: These fees pay for staff time in providing services necessary to review application materials, generate permit conditions, and then issue the film permit.

County Service Fees: Service fees recover the cost to departments for providing support personnel during location filming (e.g., security, monitors, lifeguards, and inspectors).

At the January 20, 2016 County/Film Industry Coordination meeting, Fire addressed the following:

- **Filming Fees:** The revised Fire Code and potential filming fee increases will be presented at the July 20, 2016 County/Film Industry Coordination meeting.
- **County Service Fees:** Fire negotiated an increase rate for Fire Safety Advisor (FSA) and Fire Safety Officers (FSO) and notified FilmLA as follows:
 - The FSA rate increased by approximately 3 percent on January 1, 2016, and will increase another 3 percent on July 1, 2016. The total cumulative rate increase for the negotiated agreement through December 31, 2017 will be 10 percent.
 - The FSO rate increase will be approximately 10 percent effective July 1, 2016. The FSO rate increases only once per year. The Fire Department has also increased staffing to help with filming issues.

Industry Feedback on Filming at County Facilities

A film industry representative indicated that they had a positive experience filming a commercial at Patriotic Hall. The film industry has also recently utilized the Hall of Records and the Hall of Justice.

FilmLA Update on Regional Filming

FilmLA has been working with the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to meet and encourage cities to adopt the California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance and Best Practices.

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In addition, on May 17, 2016 the Board adopted a motion introduced by Supervisors Knabe and Kuehl instructing the CEO to send a letter to all 88 cities in Los Angeles County asking that they consider adopting the California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance and Best Practices as their city's film policy to the extent possible. The intent of the motion was to help ensure uniform film practices and permit processes throughout the County. On June 1, 2016, our Office sent out letters to the 88 city managers.

Coordination meetings between the County, FilmLA, and film industry leaders continue to be beneficial in discussing and addressing film-related issues. The next semi-annual County/Film Industry Coordination meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2016.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Susana Graether at (213) 893-2086, or sgraether@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:JJ:DPH:DSB
DSP:SVG:acn

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Sheriff Department
 Beaches and Harbors
 Fire Department
 Internal Services Department
 Military and Veterans Affairs
 Parks and Recreation
 Public Health
 Public Works
 FilmLA